

Head Quarters 1st Division 19th A.C.

Franklin, La. February 14th 1864

Dear Mother,

I have made several attempts to answer your letter of January 22nd, this week's, but have been called on to go somewhere or to do some writing for Capt. Speed every time I have commenced. I think now that I will finish it for they have all gone to bed except one of the clerks and myself. I have been down to the company this evening to see the boys, they have all been hard at work to day putting up their large tents, which have been stored away in New Orleans since they left [CO] camp last fall, before they got there they were living in all sorts of cabins made of what the Darkies call Pews, they are cypress slabs for fences, the boys are all feeling first rate, the duty is very light here to what it was in New Iberia.

The weather is very fine at present, we have had no rain or snow since we came to this place.

I wrote to Norman Burdick for him to make me a pair of shoes, it is *comming* on warm weather and I want something lighter than boots to wear. I want a good pair made and when we get paid I will send the pay for them what ever it is my boots are good yet. I have got to get them fixed a little, but they are *to* heavy, they will last me a good while for muddy weather. You speak about sending me shirts, I would like a pair of the same kind of cloth as those you sent by Homer, I don't care about their being the same *collor*, I should prefer something a little gayer, but make them about the same size of those if you can conveniently. I don't know but you will think I am rather particular, I would like a couple pair of socks (woolen), send them either by ferry of Harrison, the one that comes first. Dewitt Baldwin arrived here this morning, he has been from the company for fifteen months, he has seen pretty easy soldiering, he never has done any duty hardly but he will have a chance to do all he will want to do now.

There were 450 recruits come up last night on a steam boat for the 8th Vermont Regiment, they are all from Vermont.

I hear but very little about Harrison. I don't suppose he would write to me, unless I wrote to him first, how is he getting along with his recruiting. I don't think he will get a great many.

Jimmy Dunn has got another place as clerk in the Ordinance Department at corps Head Qrs., it's a good place, better than when he was here. I have best letter to do now for the Doctor so the assistant Adjutant-Gen. sets me to work writing for him when he gets in a hurry with his business. We live pretty well here for soldiers, there is seven of us clerks and orderlies that mess together, we have a darkie to cook for us and have a large tent to set the table in, we have warm *bisquets* and pan cakes every day.

Well I can write no more, give my love to all.

From your Obedient Son,

J. Francis Brand

P.S.

Direct your letters to Head Quarters 1st Division 19th Army Corps. New Orleans.